

Conference Reports

First LCA-Workshop in Spain "LCA 2000": Preliminary Results

On the 25th of November, APRODACV, the Spanish Association for the Promotion of LCA Development, organized the first Spanish workshop on LCA: "LCA 2000". The meeting, which was held in Barcelona, was attended by 60 experts in environmental issues from the public and private sector coming from the whole of Spain. The aim of the workshop was to exchange ideas, information and experiences, and furthermore, to identify the main actions and proposals for the implementation of LCA as an environmental management tool in Spain before the year 2000.

The workshop was carried out according to a methodology developed by DG XIII of the European Commission. The program of the workshop was structured in two sessions, each of them consisting in previous meetings of different working groups followed by a plenary session with all the workshop participants.

The purpose of the first session was to define the tasks of the different social actors in order to promote the implementation of LCA in Spain. The attendants were distributed in several groups according to their particular working field: Administration, Consultancies and Engineering, Industry and Services, Research and Education, and NGOs. In each group, proposals for implementation were discussed; five actions were selected afterwards and presented to the plenary session. All participants voted the five best actions among the 25 elaborated proposals which turned out to be:

- ♦ Development of a public environmental database in order to facilitate the use of LCA,
- ♦ Simplification of LCA methodology,
- ♦ Inclusion of LCA as an environmental decision tool for public policies and regulations,
- ♦ Inclusion of LCA in the academic contents of environmental management-related studies, and
- ♦ Elaboration of LCA-Guidebooks including case-studies.

The second session intended to define concrete LCA applications in distinct fields. The participants of the workshop joined different working groups according to the following subjects: Waste Management, Standardization and Eco-labeling, Product Design, Environmental Management, and Research/Education/Information. Again, each group presented a list of five actions to the plenary session and all attendants voted for the five most important proposals:

- ♦ Incorporation of LCA in Environment Management Systems,
- ♦ Collection of basic regional and local data for the performance of LCA,
- ♦ Standardization of simplified LCA,

- ♦ Inclusion of LCA in the decision-making process for Product Design and Environmental Management, and
- ♦ Promotion of a "green" product market by the authorities.

During the workshop, a high level of knowledge on LCA was noticed among the participants. Due to the active participation of the experts, it was felt that time allocated to discussion was not enough and that more events of this kind are necessary.

A summary document will be written including the discussions and the conclusions reached by the LCA experts. This document will also incorporate a detailed description of the State of the Art and will be the foundation of the **Strategic Plan** for the Implementation of LCA in Spain before the year 2000. The document will be published in Spanish and English and will be sent to all interested parties: Administration, Business associations, Universities, NGOs,

When bringing to practice this Plan, APRODACV will play an important role. APRODACV is an independent association of specialists and organizations with interests in LCA coming from different areas as university, industry, consulting companies, administration, etc. Its main objective is to join efforts to increase the awareness and application of the methodology of LCA in Spain. Members of APRODACV participate in national and international LCA-related forums. Currently, APRODACV is working on several projects:

- ♦ Organization of a second edition of this workshop, a Spanish LCA-Congress and monthly technical meetings,
- ♦ help authorities to establish environmental strategy using LCA,
- ♦ development of a bibliographical database and a documentation pool,
- ♦ publication of a three-monthly newsletter,
- ♦ university courses, seminars, conferences, publication of articles, etc.

Silvia Ayuso, Pere Fullana, Llorenç Milà, Joan Rieradevall (Members of the "LCA 2000" Organization Committee)

For further information, please contact:

Mr. Gabriel Verger
Secretary of APRODACV
Cardenal Vives i Tutó, 41, Entlo. 12
E-08034 Barcelona, Spain
Phone: +34-3-280 02 58
Fax: +34-3-205 37 44
e-mail: aprodacv@arrakis.es